

## Appropriations-related changes to Article 1 agencies

HB 3441 by Pickett (Staples)

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**DIGEST:** HB 3441 would have changed the statutes governing various agencies under Article 1 of the general appropriations act to help achieve objectives of the budget act for fiscal 2004-05. It would have transferred the Commission on Human Rights to the civil rights division of the Texas Workforce Commission; established a seven-member commission to govern the division; required training and continuing education for investigators; and required the division to collect and report statewide information on employment and housing discrimination complaints. The bill also would have specified that the headquarters of the Crime Victims' Institute were at Sam Houston State University and would have placed the institute under the direction and supervision of the university's president. It would have specified that certain money from two State Preservation Board trust funds held outside the treasury under current law be deposited to general revenue accounts. It also would have allowed certain savings or revenues from other agencies to be transferred to the Texas Incentive and Productivity Commission; made distribution of a premarital education handbook for applicants for marriage licenses permissive, rather than mandatory; and repealed requirements that the Texas Ethics Commission prepare and provide certain forms.

**GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "Some of the provisions of House Bill No. 3441 have been accomplished in other legislation that I have signed. However, House Bill No. 3441 also would have the unintended consequence of not providing the State Preservation Board with access to funds currently used for emergencies or unexpected maintenance in and around the Capitol Complex.

"Transfer of the Human Rights Commission to the Texas Workforce Commission already has been accomplished by House Bill No. 2933 [by Flores], and Senate Bill No. 1245 [by Armbrister] gives oversight of the Crime Victims' Institute to Sam Houston State University."

**RESPONSE:** Rep. Joe Pickett, author of HB 3441, said: "HB 3441 was a technical bill filed on behalf of the House Appropriations Committee. The veto will have no impact on the budget."

Sen. Todd Staples, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

**NOTES:** HB 3441 was analyzed in Part One of the May 10 *Daily Floor Report*.